



**Memorandum**

TO: Seattle Public Schools, David Jackson  
 SITE: Magnolia Elementary School: 2418 28<sup>th</sup> Ave W, Seattle, WA 98199  
 RE: Elm # 437 Tree Inspection  
 DATE: July 22, 2021  
 PROJECT ARBORIST: Scott Baker  
 Registered Consulting Arborist #414  
 ISA Certified Board Certified Master Arborist PN- 0670B  
 ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor

**Observations and Discussion**

I visited the subject site on 07/13/2021 at the request of David Jackson Project Manager for Seattle Schools to inspect one Exceptional American elm tree (*Ulmus americana*). This tree was preserved as part of the school remodel and expansion. It grows on a slope above the park to the east of the school.

The tree was in decline during the last growing season. Two recent photos are attached below.

I inspected the tree and found it to be entirely without leaves, and clearly dead. It did not leaf out all this year. I inspected the base of the tree to see if I could see signs of treatment for Dutch Elm disease. It did not appear to me that tree had been treated.

I was able to collect a sample branch and I found staining, a diagnostic sign that Dutch Elm disease was the cause of the trees death. I also noted that seedlings from this tree nearby also were infected by the disease and dying. This provides a second confirmation of the cause of the trees demise.

I recommend that you investigate salvage of some of the wood from the tree as Elm is a valuable hardwood. I also recommend replacement tree or two planted in this vicinity as it is an excellent place for a large stature tree. There are disease resistant Elm cultivars that can be considered, however I recommend other deciduous tree species would be a better bet.

The trees location makes it highly desirable that a crane be used for the removal. This will limit disturbance on the slope and if lumber is the salvage that process will be easier. Is that an exceptional tree that is removed be replaced with the tree that will attain equal stature over time.

Because the tree was part of a development process and permitting I think the school district should get a permit for the removal of the tree.

**Tree Risk**

This tree will soon begin to deteriorate, and pose increasing risk to park users on the trails beneath the tree and students in the school outside play area adjacent to the tree. If large parts were to fail and strike a pedestrian the



consequences would be severe. If the entire tree failed and struck the play area when it was occupied the consequences would also be severe.

In my opinion, based on my experience, and training, this dead and deteriorating tree should be removed as soon as feasible.

Woodchips from the tree removal could be left on the site to help with soil protection on the slope and to help with the establishment of the new tree or trees. There is no danger of spreading disease by using the chips.

I hope this information is helpful if you have any questions please contact me.,

Respectfully,

Scott Baker, RCA, BCMA, Instructor for the International Qualification in Tree Risk Assessment



Photo 1 The elm tree base. Bark is already sloughing off the trunk as the tree deteriorates. Pedestrians using the paths beneath the tree are at risk from falling parts.



Photo 2. The dead elm tree is within range of the school yard.

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## **Appendix A - Assumptions & Limiting Conditions**

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